

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF NEBRASKA

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| In the Matter of the applica- |) | Application No. NG-0031 |
| tion of Aquila, Inc., d/b/a |) | |
| Aquila Networks (Aquila), |) | PROTECTIVE ORDER |
| Omaha, seeking authority for |) | GRANTED |
| Limited Cost Recovery in the |) | |
| State of Nebraska. |) | Entered: September 21, 2005 |

BY THE COMMISSION:

PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. This matter came before the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) at the time the application was filed August 1, 2005. Notice of the application was published in the *Daily Record*, Omaha, on August 2, 2005. A Planning Conference was held September 8, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Library. The Commission upon consideration, and being otherwise fully advised, finds that a protective order should be entered. This Protective Order shall govern the use of all confidential information and documents produced by, or on behalf of, any Participant. Notwithstanding any order terminating this proceeding, this Protective Order shall remain in effect until specifically modified or terminated by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

2. In accordance with the procedures set forth in Proposed Rule 005 (Confidential Information) under Title 291, Chapter 9, Rule 005 of the Administrative Nebraska Code, a Participant may designate as protected those materials which customarily are treated by that Participant as sensitive and

proprietary, which are not available to the public, and which, if disclosed freely, would subject that Participant or its customers to risk of competitive disadvantage or other business injury.

3. Definitions -- For purposes of this Protective Order:

a. The term "Participant" shall mean a Participant as defined as Applicant Aquila and any other necessary or permitted party in this Docket.

b. (1) The term "Confidential Material" means (a) materials (including depositions) provided by a Participant in a tariff filing, workpapers, responses to discovery request and designated by such Participant as protected; (b) any information contained in or obtained from such designated materials; (c) any other materials which are made subject to this Protective Order by the Commission, or its Staff, by any Court or other body having appropriate authority, or by agreement of the Participant; (d) notes of Confidential Materials; and (e) copies of Confidential Materials. The Participant producing the Confidential Materials shall physically mark them on each page as "CONFIDENTIAL" or with words of similar import as long as the term "Confidential Materials" is included in that designation to indicate that they are Confidential Materials in accordance with the Commission's Proposed Rules of Practice and Procedure and

other applicable representations. See Neb. Admin. Code, Title 219, Ch. 9, Proposed Rule 005.01 (2003).

(2) The term "Notes of Confidential Materials" means memoranda, handwritten notes, or any other form of information (including electronic form) which copies or discloses materials described in Paragraph 3(b)(1). Notes of Confidential Materials are subject to the same restrictions provided in this Protective Order for Confidential Materials except as specifically provided in this Protective Order.

(3) Confidential Materials shall not include (a) any information or document contained in the files of the Commission, or any other federal or state agency, or any federal or state court, unless the information or document has been determined to be protected by such agency or court, or (b) information that is public knowledge, or which becomes public knowledge, other than through disclosure in violation of this Protective Order.

c. The term "Non-Disclosure Certificate" shall mean the certificate annexed hereto by which Participants who have been granted access to Confidential Materials shall certify their understanding that such access to Confidential Materials is provided pursuant to the terms and restrictions of this Protective Order, and that such Participants have read the Protective Order and agree to be bound by it. All Non-

Disclosure Certificates shall be served on all parties on the official service list maintained by the Commission in this proceeding.

d. The term "Reviewing Representative" shall mean a person who has signed a Non-Disclosure Certificate and who is:

(1) Commission Litigation Staff (*i.e.*, Public Advocate);

(2) an attorney who has made an appearance in this proceeding for a Participant;

(3) attorneys, paralegals, and other employees associated for purposes of this case with an attorney described in (2);

(4) an expert or an employee of an expert retained by a Participant for the purpose of advising, preparing for, or testifying in this proceeding;

(5) a person designated as a Reviewing Representative by order of a Presiding Judge or the Commission; or

(6) employees or other representatives of Participants appearing in this proceeding with significant responsibility for this docket.

Such Reviewing Representative shall not be an individual involved in (i) consulting, marketing, purchase, or sales of energy or the supervision of the consulting marketing purchasing

or sales of energy if the information at issue is confidential and specific to another party's vendor or customer, or (ii) negotiating gas supply, transportation or sale arrangements with a Participant if the information at issue is confidential and involves a Participant's customers, suppliers, interstate transporters, shipping, or potential shippers' negotiations with a Participant regarding capacity arrangements, or (iii) negotiating with customers (current or potential) for service on, or certificate filings on behalf of entities competing with a Participant if the information at issue is confidential and concerns potential expansion or extension of a Participant's existing facilities or the renewal or renegotiation of existing service agreements or the negotiation of new service agreements of a Participant.

4. Confidential Materials shall be made available under the terms of this Protective Order only to Participants and only through their Reviewing Representatives as provided in Paragraph 7, 8, and 9.

5. Confidential Materials shall remain available to Participants until the later of the date that an order terminating this proceeding becomes no longer subject to judicial review, or the date that any other Commission proceeding relating to the Confidential Material is concluded and is no longer subject to judicial review. If requested to do

so in writing after that date, the Participants shall, within fifteen (15) days of such request, return the Confidential Materials (excluding Notes of Confidential Materials) to the Participant that produced them, or shall destroy the materials, except that copies of filings, official transcripts and exhibits in this proceeding that contain Confidential Materials, and Notes of Confidential Material may be retained, if they are maintained in accordance with Paragraph 6 below. Within such time period each Participant, if requested to do, shall also submit to the producing Participant an affidavit stating that, to the best of its knowledge, all Confidential Materials and Notes of Confidential Materials have been returned or have been destroyed or will be maintained in accordance with Paragraph 6. To the extent Confidential Materials are not returned or destroyed, they shall remain subject to the Protective Order.

6. All Confidential Materials shall be maintained by the Participant in a secure place. Access to those materials shall be limited to those Reviewing Representatives specifically authorized pursuant to Paragraphs 8 and 9. The Commission shall place any Confidential Materials filed with the Commission in a non-public file in accordance with its Rules and Regulations. By placing such documents in a non-public file, the Commission is not making a determination of any claim of privilege. The Commission retains the right to make determinations regarding

any claim of privilege and the discretion to release information necessary to carry out its jurisdictional responsibilities.

7. Confidential Materials shall be treated as confidential by each Participant and by the Reviewing Representative in accordance with the certificate executed pursuant to Paragraph 9. Confidential Materials shall not be used except as necessary for the conduct of this proceeding, nor shall they be disclosed in any manner to any person except a Reviewing Representative who is engaged in the conduct of this proceeding and who needs to know the information in order to carry out that person's responsibilities in this proceeding and who qualifies for access to such material pursuant to Paragraph 3(d) hereof. Reviewing Representatives may make copies of Confidential Materials, but such copies become Confidential Materials. Reviewing Representatives may make notes of Confidential Materials, which shall be treated as Notes of Confidential Materials if they disclose the contents of Confidential Materials.

8. a. If a Reviewing Representative's scope of employment includes the marketing, purchasing, or sale of energy, the direct supervision of any employee or employees whose duties include the marketing, purchasing, or sale of energy, the provision of consulting services to any person whose duties include the marketing, purchasing, or sale of energy, or

the direct supervision of any employee or employees whose duties include the marketing, purchasing, or sale of energy, such Reviewing Representative may not use information contained by any Confidential Materials obtained through this proceeding to give any Participant or any competitor of any Participant a commercial advantage.

b. In the event that a Participant wishes to designate as a Reviewing Representative a person not described in Paragraph 3(d) above, the Participant shall seek agreement from the Participant providing the Confidential Materials. If an agreement is reached, that person shall be a Reviewing Representative pursuant to Paragraph 3(d) above with respect to those materials. If no agreement is reached, the Participant shall submit the disputed designation to the Commission for resolution.

9. a. A Reviewing Representative shall not be permitted to inspect, participate in discussions regarding, or otherwise be permitted access to Confidential Materials pursuant to this Protective Order unless that Reviewing Representative has first executed a Non-Disclosure Certificate provided that if an attorney qualified as a Reviewing Representative has executed such a certificate, the paralegals, secretarial and clerical personnel under the attorney's instruction, supervision or control need not do so. A copy of each Non-Disclosure Certificate

shall be provided to counsel for the Participant asserting confidentiality prior to disclosure of any Confidential Material to that Reviewing Representative.

b. Attorneys qualified as Reviewing Representatives are responsible for ensuring that persons under their supervision or control comply with this Protective Order.

10. Any Reviewing Representative may disclose Confidential Materials to any other Reviewing Representative as long as the disclosing Reviewing Representative and the receiving Reviewing Representative both have executed a Non-Disclosure Certificate and the receiving Reviewing Representatives qualifies for access to that type of material under Paragraph 3(d). In the event that any Reviewing Representative to whom the Confidential Materials are disclosed ceases to be engaged in these proceedings, or is employed or retained for a position who occupant is not qualified to be a Reviewing Representative under Paragraph 3(d), access to Confidential Materials by that person shall be terminated. Even if no longer engaged in this proceeding, every person who has executed a Non-Disclosure Certificate shall continue to be bound by the provisions of this Protective Order and the certification.

11. Subject to *Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 66-1829* and *Secs. 84-712 to 84-712.09*, the Commission or its designee shall resolve any disputes arising under this Protective Order. Prior to

presenting any dispute under this Protective Order to the Commission or its designee, the parties to the dispute shall use their best efforts to resolve it. Any Participant that contests the designation of materials as protected shall notify the party that provided the Confidential Materials by specifying in writing the materials whose designation is contested. In any challenge to the designation of materials as protected, the burden of proof shall be on the Participant designating the materials as Confidential.

12. All copies of all documents reflecting Confidential Materials, including the portion of the hearing testimony, exhibits, transcripts, briefs and other documents which refer to Confidential Materials, shall be filed and served in sealed envelopes or other appropriate containers endorsed to the effect that they are sealed pursuant to this Protective Order and in accordance with Proposed Rule 5 of the Commission's Regulation. Neb. Adm'n. Code, 291, Ch. 9, Proposed Rule 005 (2003). Such documents shall be marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and shall be filed under seal and served under seal upon the Commission and all Reviewing Representatives who are on the service list in accordance with Commission Confidential Material Rules and Regulations. For anything filed under seal, redacted versions, or where an entire document is protected, a letter indicating such will also be filed with the Commission and served on all

parties on the service list. Counsel for the producing Participant shall provide to all Participants who request the same, a list of Reviewing Representatives who are entitled to receive such material. Counsel shall take all reasonable precautions necessary to assure that Confidential Materials are not distributed to unauthorized persons.

If any Participant desires to include, utilize or refer to any Confidential Materials or information derived therefrom in testimony or exhibits during the hearing in these proceedings in such a manner that might require disclosure of such material to persons other than reviewing representatives, such Participant shall first notify both Counsel for the disclosing Participant and the Commission of such desire, identifying with particularity each of the Confidential Materials. Thereafter, use of such Confidential Material will be governed by procedures determined by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act (*Neb. Rev. Stat. Secs. 66-1801 et seq.*) and its Rules and Regulations.

13. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be construed as precluding any Participant from objecting to the use of Confidential Materials on any legal grounds.

14. Nothing in this Protective Order shall preclude any Participant from requesting the Commission, or any other body

having appropriate authority, to find that this Protective Order should not apply to all or any materials previously designated as Confidential Materials pursuant to this Protective Order. The Commission may alter or amend this Protective Order as circumstances warrant at any time during the course of this proceeding.

15. Each party governed by this Protective Order has the right to seek changes in it as appropriate from the Hearing Officer or Commission.

16. All Confidential Materials filed with the Commission or any other judicial or administrative body in support of or as a part of a motion, other pleading, brief, or other document, shall be filed and served in sealed envelopes or other appropriate containers bearing prominent markings indicating that the contents include Confidential Materials subject to this Protective Order.

17. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be deemed to preclude any Participant from independently seeking through discovery in any other administrative or judicial proceeding information or materials produced in this proceeding under this Protective Order.

18. None of the Participants waive the right to pursue any other legal or equitable remedies that may be available in the

event of actual or anticipated disclosure of Confidential Materials.

19. The contents of Confidential Materials or any other form of information that copies or disclose Confidential Materials shall not be disclosed to anyone other than in accordance with this Protective Order and shall be used only in connection with this (these) proceeding(s).

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 21st day of September, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

In the Matter of the) Application No. NG-0031
application of Aquila, Inc.,)
d/b/a Aquila Networks)
(Aquila), Omaha, seeking)
authority for Limited Cost)
Recovery in the State of)
Nebraska.)

I hereby certify my understanding that access to Confidential Material is provided to me pursuant to the terms and restrictions of the Protective Order in this proceeding, that I have been given a copy of and have read the Protective Order, and that I agree to be bound by it. I understand that the contents of the Confidential Materials, any notes or other memoranda, or any other form of information that copies or discloses Confidential Materials shall not be disclosed to anyone other than in accordance with that Protective Order. I acknowledge that a violation of this certificate constitutes a violation of an order of the Commission.

Date: